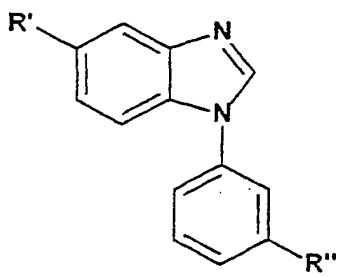
Claims:

1. A benzimidazole derivative represented by the general Formula I,



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
wherein,

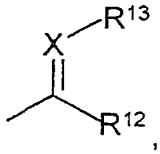
R' represents a group of the formula $-(alk)_q-R^1$,
wherein
(alk) represents alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl,
q is 0 or 1,
R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO_2R^2$, wherein
R^2 represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, alkyl-"Heterocycle", or $-alkyl-NR^3R^4$,
wherein
"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, and a group of the formula $-(alkyl)_p-CN$, $-(alkyl)_p-aryl$, $-(alkyl)_p-$"Heterocycle", $-(alkyl)_p-CO_2-$"Heterocycle" or $-(alkyl-CO_2)_s-(alkyl)_t-COR^5$,
in which formulas
p, s and t independently of each another is 0 or 1,
"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,
R^5 represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula $-NR^6R^7$ or $-O-alkyl-NR^6R^7$,
in which formulas

R^6 and R^7 independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

R^6 and R^7 together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; and

R^3 and R^4 independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl, or

R^3 and R^4 together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or poly-cyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; or

R^1 represents a group of the formula  , wherein

X represents N or CH,

R^{12} represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy or hydroxy-alkyl, and

R^{13} represents hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy or hydroxy-alkyl; or

R^1 represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl, and acyl, and a group of the formula $-(alkyl)_p$-aryl, $-(alkyl)_p$-"Heterocycle", $-(alkyl)_p-CN$ or $-(alkyl-CO_2)_s-(alkyl)_t-COR^5$,

in which formulas

p, s and t independently of each another is 0 or 1,

"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

R^5 represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula $-NR^6R^7$ or -O-alkyl-NR^6R^7,

in which formulas

R^6 and R^7 independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

R^6 and R^7 together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; and

R'' represents $-(alkyl)_o$-"Heterocycle" or $-(alkyl)_o-CO_2-(alkyl)_u$-"Heterocycle",

wherein

o and u independently of each another is 0 or 1, and

"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl, and acyl, and a group of the formula $-(alkyl)_p$-CN, $-(alkyl)_p$-aryl, $-(alkyl)_p$-aralkyl, $-(alkyl)_p$-O-aryl, $-(alkyl)_p$-O-aralkyl, $-(alkyl)_p-CO_2$-aryl, $-(alkyl)_p-CO_2$-aralkyl, $-(alkyl)_p$-"Heterocycle", $-(alkyl)_p-CO_2$-"Heterocycle" or $-(alkyl-CO_2)_s-(alkyl)_t-COR^5$,

in which formulas

p, s and t independently of each another is 0 or 1,

"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

R^5 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkyl, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, or a group of the formula $-NR^6R^7$ or -O-alkyl-NR^6R^7,

in which formulas

R^6 and R^7 independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of

halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

R^6 and R^7 together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl; or

R" represents $-(alkyl)_m-CO_2R^8$,

wherein

m is 0 or 1, and

R^8 represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, or a group of the formula $-(alkyl)_p-NR^9R^{10}$,

wherein

p is 0 or 1, and

R^9 and R^{10} independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl, or

R^9 and R^{10} together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl.

2. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 1, wherein R" represents

2-(4-acetylpiperazin-1-yl)-ethoxy-carbonyl;

pyridin-2-yl-methoxy-carbonyl;

1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidyl-methoxy-carbonyl; or

3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl-ethoxy-carbonyl.

3. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 2, which is

2-(1-Acetyl-4-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-benzoate;

1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidylmethyl 3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-benzoate;

2-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime; or

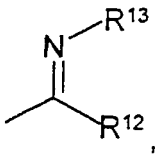
2-(2-pyridyl)-methyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 1, wherein

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO_2R^2$, wherein

R^2 represents alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, thioalkoxy-alkyl, alkyl-$N(alkyl)_2$; or

R^1 represents a group of the formula  , wherein

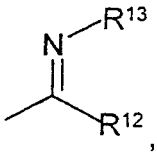
R^{12} represents alkyl, and

R^{13} represents hydroxy, or alkoxy; or

R^1 represents a furanyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, an oxadiazolyl group.

5. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 4, wherein

R^1 represents a group of the formula -COOH, $-CO_2-CH_3$, $-CO_2-C_2H_5$, $-CO_2-CH_2-CH(OH)$, $-CO_2(CH_2)_2OCH_3$, $-CO_2(CH_2)_2SCH_3$, $-CO_2(CH_2)_2SC_2H_5$, or $-CO_2(CH_2)_2N(CH_3)_2$; or

R^1 represents a group of the formula  , wherein

R^{12} represents methyl or ethyl, and

R^{13} represents hydroxy, methoxy or ethoxy; or

R^1 represents a 2- or 3-furanyl group.

6. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 5, which is

2-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime; or

2-(2-pyridyl)-methyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The benzimidazole derivative of either of claims 4-5, wherein

R'' represents a group of the formula $-(alkyl)_o$-"Heterocycle", wherein

o is 0 or 1, and

"Heterocycle" represents a furanyl group, a 2H-furanyl group, a 4H-furanyl group, a thienyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a 2H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolinyl) group, a 4H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolidinyl) group, an imidazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, a 2H-oxazolyl (oxazolinyl) group, a 4H-oxazolyl (oxazolidinyl) group, an isoxazolyl group, a 2H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolinyl) group, a 4H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolidinyl) group, an oxadiazolyl group, a 2H-oxadiazolyl (oxadiazolinyl) group, a 4H-oxadiazolyl (oxadiazolidinyl) group, a morpholinyl group, a thiomorpholinyl group, a pyridinyl group, a piperidinyl group, a piperazine group, a homopiperazine group or a tetrazolyl group, which heterocyclic groups may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, oxo, acyl, alkyl-CO_2H, alkyl-CO_2-alkyl -$(alkyl)_p$-CO_2-aryl, -$(alkyl)_p$-CO_2-aralkyl and alkyl-CO_2-alkyl-$CONR^6R^7$, wherein

R^6 and R^7 independently of each another represent hydrogen or alkyl.

8. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 7, wherein

"Heterocycle" represents a pyrrolidin-1-yl; a piperazin-1-yl; a homopiperazin-1-yl; an imidazol-1-yl; a pyridin-4-yl; a 4H-pyridin-4-yl, in particular a 1,2,5,6-tetrahydro-pyridin-4-yl; a piperidin4-yl; a 2H-isoxazol-3-yl, in particular a 4,5-dihydro-isoxazol-3-yl.

9. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 8, wherein R'' represents

4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl;
4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl;
5-((N,N-Diethylcarbamoyl)-methoxycarbonylmethyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl;
5-((N,N-Dimethylcarbamoyl)-methoxycarbonylmethyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl;
1-imidazolylmethyl;
4-(1-methyl-5-tetrazolyl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl;
1-ethyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl;
4-(2-oxazolidinone-5-yl)-methyl)1-piperazinyl;
4-(5-methyloxadiazol-3-yl)-methyl)1-piperazinyl;
4-(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)-methyl)1-piperazinyl;
4-(2-oxo-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-1-piperazinyl;
4-(2-chloro-5-thienyl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl; or
(1-methyl-2-pyrrolidyl)-methylcarbonyl.

10. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 9, which is

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

(N,N-Diethylcarbamoyl)-methyl 2-(3-[3-(5-ethoxycarbonyl-1-benzimidazolyl)-phenyl]-4,5-dihydroxyisoxazol-5-yl)-acetate;

Methyl 1-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 1-(3-(1-imidazolylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(1-methyl-5-tetrazolyl)methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-ethyl-1,2,5,6-tetrahydropyridin-4-yl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-oxazolidinone-5-yl)-methyl)1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(5-methyloxadiazol-3-yl)-methyl)1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(3,5-dimethylisoxazol-4-yl)methyl)1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-oxo-tetrahydrofuran-3-yl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-chloro-5-thienyl)-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonyl-1-imidazolyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

or

N,N-Diethylcarbamoylmethyl 2-(3-(3-(5-(3-furanyl)-1-benzimidazolyl)-phenyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazole-5-yl)-acetate;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. The benzimidazole derivative of either of claims 4-5, wherein

R'' represents a group of the formula $-CO_2-(alkyl)_o$-"Heterocycle", wherein

o is 0 or 1, and

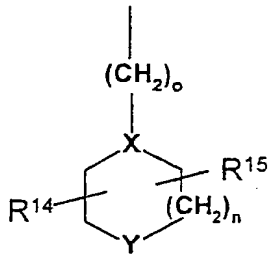
"Heterocycle" represents a pyrrolyl group, a 2H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolinyl) group, a 4H-pyrrolyl (pyrrolidinyl) group, an imidazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group, a 2H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolinyl) group, a 4H-isoxazolyl (isoxazolidinyl) group, an oxadiazolyl group, a pyridyl group, a piperidinyl group, a piperazine group or a homopiperazine group, which heterocyclic groups may be substituted

one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, acyl, alkyl-CO_2H, alkyl-CO_2-alkyl and alkyl-CO_2-alkyl-$CONR^6R^7$, wherein

R^6 and R^7 independently of each another represent hydrogen or alkyl.

12. The benzimidazole derivative of either of claims 4-5, wherein

R'' represents a group of the formula



in which formula

o is 0 or 1,

n is 0, 1 or 2,

X represents N or CH,

Y represents O, NR^{11} or CHR^{11},

wherein R^{11} represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl or acyl, or a group of the formula -$(alkyl)_p$-CN, -$(alkyl)_p$-aryl, -$(alkyl)_p$-O-aryl, -$(alkyl)_p$-O-aralkyl, -$(alkyl)_p$-"Heterocycle", -$(alkyl)_p$-CO_2-"Heterocycle" or -$(alkyl\text{-}CO_2)_s$-$(alkyl)_t$-COR^5,

wherein

p, s and t independently of each another is 0 or 1,

"Heterocycle" represents a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, cyano, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl and acyl,

R^5 represents hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy-alkoxy, alkoxy-alkoxy, thioalkoxy-alkoxy, aryl or aralkyl, or a group of the formula -NR^6R^7 or -O-alkyl-NR^6R^7, in which formulas

R^6 and R^7 independently of each another represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl or a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group is optionally

substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, and acyl, or

R^6 and R^7 together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a mono- or polycyclic heterocyclic group, which heterocyclic group may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl and acyl, and

R^{14} and R^{15} independently of each another represent hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, alkoxy-alkyl, carboxyl or acyl; or

R'' represents a group of the formula $-CO_2R^8$, wherein

R^8 represents alkyl-NR^9R^{10}, wherein

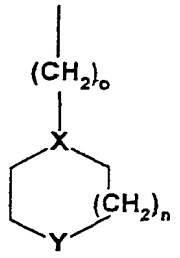
R^9 and R^{10} together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a pyrrolidine or a piperazine group, which group may be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl and acyl.

13. The compound according to claim 12, wherein R'' represents
4-methoxycarbonyl-methyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-ethoxycarbonyl-methyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-methyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-ethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl; or
3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl.

14. The compound according to claim 12, which compound is
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate; or
2-(3,5-dimethyl-1-piperazinyl)-ethyl 3-(5-acetylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-benzoate oxime;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 12, wherein

R'' represents a group of the formula



in which formula

o is 0 or 1,

n is 0, 1 or 2,

X represents N or CH, and

Y represents NR^{11} or CHR^{11}, wherein

R^{11} represents hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxy-alkyl, carboxy, acyl, or a group of the formula -$(alkyl)_p$-CN, -$(alkyl)_p$-aryl, -$(alkyl)_p$-O-aryl, -$(alkyl)_p$-O-aralkyl, -$(alkyl)_t$-COR^5 or -$(alkyl)_t$-R^5,

wherein

p and t independently of each another is 0 or 1, and

R^5 represents hydroxy, alkoxy, NH_2, NH(alkyl) or $N(alkyl)_2$.

16. The benzimidazole derivative of claim 15, wherein R'' represents

4-(methoxy-carbonyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;
4-(ethoxy-carbonyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;
4-(methoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinyl;
4-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinyl;
4-(methoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;
4-(ethoxy-carbonyl-methyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl;
1-piperazinyl;
1-piperazinyl-methyl;
4-acetyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-methyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-ethyl-1-piperazinyl;
1-methyl-4-piperidinyl;
1-acetyl-4-piperidinyl;
1-methyl-4-piperidyl;
1-acetyl-4-piperidyl;
4-*tert*-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-isopropoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl;

4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-benzyloxy-ethyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl;
4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-1-piperazinyl;
4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl;
4-dimethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl; or
4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl.

17. The compound according to claim 15, which compound is
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(ethoxycarbonyl)-1-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(etoxycarbonylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Metoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-acetyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-methyl-4-piperidyl)phenyl)benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-acetyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-*t*-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-*i*-propoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-[4-(3-(5-Methoxycarbonylbenzimidazol-1-yl)-phenyl)-1-piperazinyl]-acetic acid;
2-(Methylthio)-ethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-(N,N-dimethylamino)-ethyl 1-(3-(1-carboxymethyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;
Methyl 1-(3-(4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-cyanomethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

Methyl 1-(3-(4-benzyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-benzyloxyethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-homopiperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

Methyl 1-(3-(1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Methoxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-diethylcarbamoylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

2-Hydroxyethyl 1-(3-(4-carboxymethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole-5-carboxylate;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-((4-ethoxycarbonyl-1-piperazinyl)-methyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-(ethoxycarbonylmethyl)-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-t-butoxycarbonylmethyl-1-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperazinylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonylmethyl-4-piperidyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole;

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(4-ethoxycarbonylpiperid-1-ylmethyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole; or

5-(3-Furanyl)-1-(3-(1-ethoxycarbonyl-4-piperazinyl)-phenyl)-benzimidazole; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of a benzimidazole derivative according to any of claims 1-17, or a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof, together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

19. The use of a benzimidazole derivative according to any of claims 1-17 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a mammal, including a human, which disease, disorder or condition is responsive to modulation of the GABA receptor complex.

20. The use according to claim 19, wherein the medicament is for inducing anaesthesia, pre-anaesthesia, muscle relaxation, or sedation, or for treatment, prevention or alleviation of fewer cramps or status epilepticus.

21. A method for treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a living animal body, including a human, which disorder, disease or condition is responsive to modulation of the GABA receptor complex, which method comprises the step of administering to such a living animal body in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a benzimidazole derivative according to any of claims 1-17.

22. The method according to claim 21, for the induction or maintenance of anaesthesia or pre-anaesthesia, muscle relaxation or sedation, or for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of fewer cramps or status epilepticus.